

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 remain in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 3 and 5 have been amended. The amended claims 1, 3, and 5 now require that the angle formed between the longitudinal axis of the head and the X axis is between 25 degrees and 65 degrees instead of between 0 degree and 90 degrees. The present application as originally filed supports these amendments. For example, in paragraph 26 in the specification, it is described that the angle ϕ is 45 ± 20 degrees. No new matter has been added.

Claims Rejections

Claims 1, 2, and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,459,260 to Bonin et al. Issue is taken with that position.

The applicants acknowledge with appreciation that dependent claims 2 and 4, which recite that the predetermined angle formed between the longitudinal axis of the magnetic head support and the motion axis X is about 45 degrees, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. By this amendment, the applicants have amended the independent claims 1, 3, and 5 to recite the predetermined angle in the range of 45 ± 20 degrees (between 25 and 65 degrees). The advantage of the arrangement that the longitudinal axis and the X axis form a predetermined angle between 25 and 65 degrees is that when the magnetic head traverses along a trajectory over the disk such that the skew angle changes over a range from $-\alpha$ to $+\alpha$, the movement of the head in one direction, for example, Y direction, can be limited, depending on the value of the predetermined angle. This prevents the head from crashing into the spindle. The applicants believe that the amended independent claims 1, 3, and 5 are distinguishable over the cited prior art reference Bonin et al.

The Bonin et al. patent is directed to a head suspension assembly for testing a slider. The arrangement of the device disclosed in Bonin et al. does not have a magnetic head support with a longitudinal axis of the magnetic head support and the X axis forming a predetermined angle between 25 and 65 degrees. Accordingly, the Bonin et al. patent does not anticipate the present invention as claimed in independent claims 1, 3, and 5.

Dependent claims 2, 4, 6-11 depend from independent claims 1, 3, and 5, and therefore,

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dependent claims 2, 4, and 6-11 also should be considered patentable over Bonin et al.

Conclusion

The applicants, accordingly, respectfully submit that in view of the preceding amendments and arguments, claims 1-11 are patentable over the cited reference and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103(a). If a telephone conference will expedite prosecution of the application the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

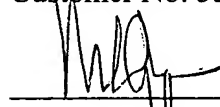
No additional costs are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this paper. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-2678.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: _____

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